

William Savin Fulton to Andrew Jackson, July 10, 1838, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

WILLIAM S. FULTON TO JACKSON.1

1 See p. 532n., *ante*, and vol. IV., pp. 212, 213, and notes there.

George Town, July 10, 1838.

My dear General, You will be surprised to find me still here and writing you from George Town. The truth is I have been so much out of health for several weeks past, and am now so much reduced that I have concluded not to risk the journey home for some weeks. Two of our children being here at school Mrs. Fulton thought it would be best to be near them until next March when she intends taking all home with her. We have therefore taken a house here until that time and I am now quietly resting myself after the excitements of a most tempestuous session of Congress.

You have ere this heard of Old Mr. Adams declaration made on Saturday last. Immediately after it was made, Mr. Howard called on me. I requested to see the letter Mr. Adams had read. He procured it, and addressed me a note requesting me to state whether I had received such a letter. I replied at once, That I believed the letter was a copy of the letter I had received from you in January 1831. That it was at home; and I intended hereafter to place it on file in the state Dept. That the letter was confidential, and my proceedings under it altogether secret. That, I had faithfully attended to the duties assigned me, and made all necessary enquiries and communicated the result to you. Coll: Howard said he would endeavor to bring up the subject yesterday but as it was the day of adjournment he failed. Mr. Blair has contradicted Mr. Adams, and stated upon my authority, that *I did*

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receive the letter in question, so that he now stands under the accusation of having made a false charge against you. Every person here speaks of your letter to me in the highest terms of praise. Indeed I am satisfied as I always have been that this attack will result greatly to your credit.

Excepting that we failed in the great bill for the establishment of an Independent Treasury We have still made several important advances towards the establishment of the system, The repeated votes of the Senate, in favor of a divorce, and the vote of the House (determined by the casting vote of the Speaker) providing against the use, by the banks of the Public money for banking purposes, The passage of the bill making it criminal, for Mr. Biddle and Co. to reissue the old notes of the late U.S. Bank, and the bill to restrain the circulation of small notes as a currency in the district of columbia. In fact, the issue is now fairly made up between a National Bank, and an Independent National Treasury; and, I cannot but think the people will ultimately rally every where, upon the side of freedom and independence.

If the Bank party shall triumph, I will begin to despair of the Republic. Our friends separated in better spirits than they had experienced at any time during the Session. Every thing begins to brighten for us, and unless the corrupting influence of the Banks is much more extensive than I believe it to be, I cannot but hope that the next elections will sustain the administration and give us an opportunity to look up again. I consider this the greatest contest for our liberties since the days of the Revolution. If the Bank party prevails, all is lost. If the people are true to themselves our institutions may last for centuries. I rejoice to hear that your health has improved very much. May your life be spared many years; and, that you may live to see all the principles fully established, for which you so gloriously contended, is the sincere prayer of your devoted friend